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**Borough of  
Royal Leamington Spa**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE  
HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT  
FOR THE YEAR 1955,

BY  
**D. LIVINGSTONE, M.B., D.P.H.,**  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE  
**Warwickshire Combined Districts**

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**Leamington Spa**

**A. TOMES LTD., PRINTERS, 46, BEDFORD STREET**

**1956**





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38, HOLLY WALK,

LEAMINGTON SPA.

January, 1957.

**To the Council of the Borough of Royal Leamington Spa**

Mr. MAYOR, LADIES and GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my sixth annual report on the health of the borough. The population has increased by 150 and the birth rate was higher. For the second year in succession Whooping Cough caused the death of a young infant. As the risk from this disease is greatest in the early months of life, prophylactic injections of vaccine need to be given within a few months of birth. Frequently the vaccine is combined with Diphtheria antigen which may not exert its best effect if given too soon. The optimum time to administer a combined Diphtheria/Whooping Cough antigen therefore needs a careful choice. Medical opinion now inclines towards the fourth to sixth month.

**HOUSING**

Last year's report noted the clearance of over 50 houses in two areas. This year much progress was made upon the preparatory work for the large clearance area comprising houses in John Street and Windsor Street, and for a compulsory purchase order to acquire these and certain adjoining "grey" land. In addition preliminary survey work was done in connection with unfit property scheduled for future clearance. Few certificates of disrepair were requested and this new measure seems destined to play an insignificant part in the improvement of housing standards in Leamington Spa.

**FOOD HYGIENE**

New food and drugs legislation was passed, much of which was to take effect after the end of 1955. Hygiene regulations and local food handling byelaws together form a code which should ensure better standards of practice both in regard to food premises and handling methods. The large number of food businesses carried on within the borough will clearly call for much attention by the sanitary inspectorate in future.

**GENERAL**

A small number of complaints was received regarding smoke emissions. Pending the arrival of new legislation on



air pollution these were dealt with on the usual lines and reasonable co-operation was secured with the managements involved.

Great nuisance was again caused by wild pigeons, particularly in the Town Hall and in lower Bath Street where the fouling of buildings and choking of gutters became serious. The Council was fortunate in obtaining voluntary and expert assistance to trap or scare away many of the birds. A special problem had been caused by the use of Leamington station as a release point for racing pigeons. Many of these birds, having lost their way, turned back and found refuge in the structure of the two railway bridges or in the Town Hall tower. Despite the inaccessibility of these roosting places, the methods used proved very successful and the number of stray birds diminished.

#### STAFFING

During 1955 two additional sanitary inspectors resigned and the department's pupil discontinued his training in order to enter industry. Thus for a long time the Chief Sanitary Inspector had only one additional inspector to carry out the work of four officers. Naturally the total of visits fell to a lower level but a creditable standard was maintained and all the more important matters and complaints received attention.

The small response to repeated advertisements suggests that neither the status and training system nor the pay and prospects of this branch any longer command the serious attentions of young men in search of a career. With industry making great efforts to expand and assist scientific or technical training, this position is likely to worsen, to the detriment of the public health, unless the obvious steps are noted and taken in good time.

The late appearance of this report is regretted and has been occasioned by the staffing shortage. Once again it is my pleasure to record the encouragement and kindness received from the Council and the willing help and support of the staff.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

D. LIVINGSTONE,

Medical Officer of Health.

**PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF  
THE BOROUGH OF ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA**

*Medical Officer of Health :*

D. LIVINGSTONE, M.B., D.P.H.

*Chief Sanitary Inspector :*

*Borough Shops Act Inspector :*

A. J. SMITH, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A., M.I.S.A.A.

*Additional Sanitary Inspectors :*

A. P. L. WALLIS, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.H. (to 30/4/55)

M. H. YOUNG, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.H. (to 13/8/55)

F. C. HILLS, M.S.I.A. (from 28/7/55)

*Pupil Sanitary Inspector :*

B. LAPWORTH (to 31/8/55)

*Clerk and Meteorological Observer :*

A. H. STALWORTH

*Disinfector :*

W. JACKSON

*Rodent Operative :*

P. JACKSON

*Public Analyst :*

F. G. D. CHALMERS, M.A., B.Sc., F.I.C.

# *Borough of Royal Leamington Spa*

## A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

|   |     |     |              |
|---|-----|-----|--------------|
| Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1955                             | ... | ... | 37,950       |
| Area of Borough   | ... | ... | 2,875 acres  |
| Public open spaces  | ... | ... | 126.42 acres |
| Product of ld. rate 1/4/55  | ... | ... | £1,525       |
| * Total number of permanent dwellinghouses and flats on 31/3/1955 | ... | ... | 10,683       |
| Birth Rate (Crude)  | ... | ... | 18.4         |
| Birth Rate (Corrected)  | ... | ... | 17.6         |
| Still Birth Rate—Rate per 1,000 total births                      | ... | ... | 18.3         |
| Death Rate (Crude)  | ... | ... | 12.1         |
| Death Rate (corrected)  | ... | ... | 10.5         |
| Deaths from Diseases and { From Sepsis                            | ... | ... | —            |
| Accidents of Pregnancy and { „ other causes                       | ... | ... | —            |
| Child-birth   | ... | ... | —            |
| Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—                      | ... | ... | ...          |
| All Infants per 1,000 live births                                 | ... | ... | 27.2         |
| Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births               | ... | ... | 25.3         |
| Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births           | ... | ... | 46.2         |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages)                                    | ... | ... | —            |
| „ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)                                     | ... | ... | 1            |

\* The total for 1954 should have been shown as 10,295.

This year there was a sharp rise in the Birth rate while the death rate was stationary. The excess of births over deaths was 238 whereas the rise in population amounted to 150 only. Migration of persons into the district has therefore apparently been checked for the first time in seven years. The Infantile Mortality remained at a satisfactory low level but there was once again a single death from Whooping Cough. This occurred in hospital in January 1955 when a two-months-old male baby was admitted for treatment of Broncho-pneumonia as a serious complication. One death was ascribed to Meningococcal Infection, and five to forms of Leukaemia, a blood disorder. The pattern of mortality generally followed the normal lines, a very large proportion of deaths being ascribed to degenerations of the heart and blood vessels or to interference with the blood supply to the brain and central nervous system. The group comprising Influenza, Pneumonia and Bronchitis accounted for only 28 deaths in all.

Violent deaths were more numerous than usual. Five men and one woman lost their lives by motor vehicle accidents; four men and four women died by other accidents and five suicides were recorded.

The crude rates for birth and death were this year multiplied by factors of 0.96 and 0.87 to give the true correction for age distribution. Put into simpler terms this means that there is some excess of elderly persons in the composition of the local population group, a fact which reflects itself in a heavier load than normal upon nursing and welfare services.



## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH

*Laboratory Facilities.*—The following examinations were made at the Public Health Laboratory, Coventry during 1955.

|  | Positive | Negative | Total |
|--|----------|----------|-------|
| SWABS (from throat or nose)<br>examined for Diphtheria ... | —        | —        | —     |
| DYSENTERY/FOOD POISONING ...                               | 2        | 2        | 4     |
| TUBERCULOSIS ... ..  | —        | —        | —     |

Many investigations under heading of Tuberculosis are carried out annually through the organisation of the local chest clinic and numerous throat swabs and stool cultures for dysentery, etc. are examined in hospital laboratories.

### LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES (WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL)

*Infant Welfare Centres.*—The following Centres are held within the Borough:—

4, Hamilton Terrace ... Thursdays and Fridays, 2 p.m.  
No. 1 Community Centre,  
Tachbrook Road ... Wednesdays, 2 p.m.  
Bowling Club, Lime Avenue,  
Lillington ... Mondays, 2 p.m.

Local enquiries regarding Home Help, After-care, Health Visiting, Domiciliary Nursing and Midwifery Services to Area Health Office, 38, Holly Walk, Leamington Spa ('Phone 2998 and 2999). National Welfare Foods have been distributed since July, 1954 by the County Council and there are numerous official and voluntary distribution points in the Borough, details of which have been publicly advertised.

*Ambulance facilities.*—The County Council's Ambulance Depot at Lakin Road, Warwick (Telephone No. Warwick 86) serves the Borough of Royal Leamington Spa.

*Hospital services.*—General or maternity cases are admitted to the Warneford or Warwick hospitals; Tuberculosis patients go to Hertford Hill Sanatorium and mental illness is treated at the Central Hospital, Hatton. There is also a Maternity Home at 3, The Butts, Warwick, which

receives for confinement some women resident in the Borough of Leamington Spa. Additional beds are available for Tuberculosis patients at Heathcote Hospital, Warwick, and St. Wulstan's Hospital, Malvern.

### **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA**

*Water.*—The town's water has been derived for many years partly from a number of deep wells or boreholes and partly by abstraction from the River Leam. The latter is heavily polluted by organic matter, including untreated drainage and sewage, so that filtration and chlorination is practised and the purity of the water is checked by frequent bacteriological and chemical tests. Plans have been developed to increase the abstraction rate of water from the river and the storage capacity so as to undertake the delivery of bulk supplies to the Southam Rural District Council at an early date.

1. The quality has been shown by testing to be pure and good though the water is very hard. There arise complaints from time to time of suspended iron deposits which are thought to arise mainly from one well. These deposits are normally bound in the pipes but are apt to break away when there is a reversed direction of flow in a communicating main. The quantity has sufficed to meet the demands although the mains pressure is inclined to be low at certain elevated or outlying points.

2. Bacteriological and chemical analyses are made monthly of the well waters and weekly of the raw and filtered river water. A typical analysis report is reproduced on the next page.

3. The water is not excessively plumbo-solvent and no special precautions are taken against this.

4. Chlorination plants are installed at all sources of supply. They have operated satisfactorily and no contamination has been reported.

5. Most houses in the town now have an internal piped supply although the domestic arrangements in some of the older large houses, which have not undergone a proper conversion into flats, are often most inconvenient and afford little better amenity than a standpipe. The population served by standpipes is now between 1% and 2% of the whole. A start was made on building a new service reservoir on the Campion Hills to hold two million gallons as well as the installation at Campion Terrace of new filtration plant.



# CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF RIVER WATERS

Results expressed in parts per million.  
(4th August, 1955)

|                                |     |           |                      | <i>Unfiltered<br/>River Water</i> | <i>Filtered<br/>River Water</i> |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Free and Saline Ammonia        | ... |           |                      | 0.04                              | 0.036                           |
| Albuminoid Ammonia             | ... |           |                      | 0.208                             | 0.080                           |
| Chlorine in Chlorides          | ... |           |                      | 30                                | 37                              |
| Nitrogen in Nitrates           | }   |           |                      | 1.5                               | 1.5                             |
| Nitrogen in Nitrites           |     |           |                      |                                   |                                 |
| Oxygen absorbed from           |     |           |                      |                                   |                                 |
| Permanganate at 80° F. in      |     |           |                      |                                   |                                 |
| 4 hours                        | ... | ...       | ...                  | 1.87                              | 1.32                            |
| Total Solids driven at 100° C. |     |           |                      | 800                               | 700                             |
| Appearance—U.F.C.              | ... | Bright    | few large particles. |                                   |                                 |
| F.C.                           | ... | Bright    | few large particles. |                                   |                                 |
| Hardness                       | }   | Temporary | ...                  | 160                               | 140                             |
|                                |     | Permanent | ...                  | 390                               | 400                             |
|                                |     | Total     | ...                  | 550                               | 540                             |
| Nitrite                        | ... | ...       | ...                  | 0.004                             | Absent                          |
| Metals                         | ... | ...       | ...                  | Absent                            | Absent                          |
| Free Chlorine                  | ... | ...       | ...                  | —                                 | 0.15                            |
| pH value                       | ... | ...       | ...                  | 7.70                              | 7.33                            |
| Dissolved CO <sub>2</sub>      | ... | ...       | ...                  | 14                                | 24                              |
| Alkalinity as CO <sub>3</sub>  | ... | ...       | ...                  | 147                               | 129                             |

## Conditions of Filtration Plant—

Time and date of sample : 10 a.m., 3rd Aug., 1955.

Rate of Filtration : 34,000 g.p.h.

Position at which taken : Filter House.

Albumia Dose : 2.89 g.p.h.

Copper Sulphate : 0.45 parts per million.

Whether or not dosed with Chlorine : Yes. 1.50lbs. per hour.

Residual Chlorine : 1.40 P.P.M.

Sulphur dioxide dose : 0.18lbs. per hr.

Residual : 0.40 P.P.M.

Immediate : 0.90 P.P.M.

After 20 mins. : 0.80 P.P.M.

## Remarks :

River Flow = 6 MG/D. Water good.

Hazen Raw = 20 A Units.

Hazen Treated = Less than 5A Units.

Taste Good.

SO<sub>2</sub> Dose = .19 lbs./hr.

## GENERAL INFORMATION.

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. New mains laid in 1955—                                     | <i>Yards</i>    |
| Town Water Mains ... ..  | 1997            |
| River Water Mains ... ..                                       | —               |
| 2. Amount of Water pumped in 1955 :—                           |                 |
| <i>Corporation Source.</i>                                     | <i>Gallons.</i> |
| From Campion Terrace ... ..                                    | 110,855,000     |
| „ Lillington ... ..  | 102,130,000     |
| „ Brewery Well ... ..  | 48,436,000      |
| „ Leicester Lane ... ..  | 27,894,000      |
| „ River (filtered) ... ..                                      | 301,802,000     |
| „ River (unfiltered) ... ..                                    | 56,194,000      |
| <i>Outside Sources.</i>  | <i>Gallons.</i> |
| Taken from Warwick R.D.C.                                      | Nil.            |
| Water supplied to Warwick R.D.C.                               | 15,610,000      |
| 3. Daily consumption of Town Water per head                    | 41.748 galls    |
| River Water supplied to Residents per head                     | 1.138 „         |
| River Water supplied annually to Rail-<br>way Companies ... .. | 41,170,000 „    |

*Swimming Baths.*—The total number of those using the baths during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1955, was 145,395. The average attendance per week during the Summer season (May to September) was 4,515 and during the Winter season 1,536. These figures show a reduction during the summer season but a marked increase in popularity during the winter months.

Examinations of the medical and swimming bath water were made during the year and proved satisfactory.

*Rivers.*—Sources of pollution both inside and outside the Borough were kept under observation.

*Closet accommodation.*—With the exception of a few cottages at Lillington and Milverton the houses throughout the town are equipped with water closets.

*Scavenging.*—Approximately 12,384 tons of refuse were collected and received at the Destructor, as compared with 12,099 the previous year. Once again there was collected a greater tonnage due mainly to new houses having come into occupation. The condition of the destructor plant has become unsatisfactory through wear and tear and a shut-down of the plant during 1956 has been planned so as to allow for necessary renewal and maintenance work.

Refuse received at the destructor was classified as :—

|                               |                 |     |     | <i>Tons</i> |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----|-----|-------------|
| By Council's collectors       | Domestic refuse | ... | ... | 9,680       |
|                               | Trade refuse    | ... | ... | 2,257       |
| Delivered by private hauliers | ...             | ... | ... | 447         |

*Sewerage.*—Experiments were made at the Works for reduction of the suspended solids in the effluent. New works were done as necessary, the most important being a contract to relieve flooding in the centre of the town. The laying of new deep sewers behind the parish church and in adjacent streets made possible a new storm overflow route from High Street to discharge into the river just below the Mill Weir.

## F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

*Incidence of Major Infectious Diseases since 1948.*

|      |     | Smallpox. | Diphtheria | Scarlet Fever. | Enteric Fever. | Pneumonia. | Anterior Poliomyelitis | Puerperal Pyrexia |
|------|-----|-----------|------------|----------------|----------------|------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1948 | ... | —         | 2          | 28             | —              | 14         | —                      | 3                 |
| 1949 | ... | —         | 2          | 19             | —              | 16         | —                      | 5                 |
| 1950 | ... | —         | 2          | 14             | —              | 12         | 5                      | 5                 |
| 1951 | ... | —         | 1          | 9              | —              | 27         | 1                      | 36                |
| 1952 | ... | —         | —          | 46             | —              | 11         | 1                      | 35                |
| 1953 | ... | —         | —          | 46             | —              | 49         | 10                     | 39                |
| 1954 | ... | —         | —          | 20             | —              | 41         | 2                      | 51                |
| 1955 | ... | —         | —          | 36             | —              | 36         | 5                      | 38                |

*Diphtheria.*—No case has been notified since 1951. In spite of the lack of known sources of this infection, the public continued to respond well to the campaign for immunization of infants and young children.

The details were as follows :—

|                              | 1955 | 1954 | 1953 | 1952 |
|------------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Children under 5 years       | 564  | 538  | 306  | 384  |
| Children 5 to 14 years       | 101  | 97   | 20   | 71   |
| Children given booster doses | 781  | 931  | 317  | 506  |

*Whooping Cough (Pertussis).*—In 1955, 519 children were given prophylactic injections and a combined Diphtheria/



Pertussis suspended vaccine was employed except for children who had already been immunized against Diphtheria. This procedure is now firmly established in the minds of parents as a thing of value and needs little canvassing and persuasion. It is necessary to administer the vaccine early in infancy as the majority of fatal or serious attacks occur in the first year or so of life.

*Poliomyelitis.*—1955 saw some increase and there were 5 notifications. All patients were nursed in hospital. With one exception the known cases arose in October and November. All were treated in hospital and four cases had paralysis which in two was of severe degree. Two were in one family but no common factor was discovered in the remainder.

### TUBERCULOSIS

#### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, TUBERCULOSIS.

| Age<br>Periods  | New Cases      |    |              |    | Transfers into<br>District |    |              |    | Deaths         |    |              |    |
|-----------------|----------------|----|--------------|----|----------------------------|----|--------------|----|----------------|----|--------------|----|
|                 | Pul-<br>monary |    | Non-<br>Pul. |    | Pul-<br>monary             |    | Non-<br>Pul. |    | Pul-<br>monary |    | Non-<br>Pul. |    |
|                 | M.             | F. | M.           | F. | M.                         | F. | M.           | F. | M.             | F. | M.           | F. |
| 0 ...           | —              | —  | —            | —  | —                          | —  | —            | —  | —              | —  | 1            | —  |
| 1-5             | 1              | 3  | —            | —  | —                          | 1  | —            | —  | —              | —  | —            | —  |
| 5-10            | 1              | —  | —            | 2  | —                          | —  | —            | —  | —              | —  | —            | 1  |
| 10-15           | —              | —  | —            | —  | —                          | —  | —            | —  | —              | —  | —            | —  |
| 15-20           | 4              | 2  | —            | —  | 1                          | 1  | 1            | —  | —              | —  | —            | —  |
| 20-25           | 4              | —  | —            | —  | 2                          | 2  | —            | 1  | —              | —  | —            | —  |
| 25-35           | 6              | 4  | 3            | —  | 10                         | 4  | —            | —  | 1              | —  | —            | —  |
| 35-45           | 2              | 2  | —            | —  | 2                          | 2  | —            | —  | 1              | —  | —            | —  |
| 45-55           | 6              | —  | —            | —  | 1                          | —  | —            | —  | 1              | —  | —            | —  |
| 55-65           | 3              | —  | —            | —  | —                          | —  | —            | —  | —              | —  | —            | —  |
| 65 &<br>upwards | 2              | —  | —            | —  | —                          | —  | —            | —  | —              | 1  | 1            | —  |
|                 | 29             | 11 | 3            | 2  | 16                         | 10 | 1            | 1  | 3              | 1  | 2            | 1  |

|        |     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|--------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
|        |     | 1935 | 1936 | 1937 | 1938 | 1939 | 1940 | 1941 |
| Cases  | ... | 32   | 40   | 40   | 28   | 23   | 43   | 26   |
| Deaths | ... | 9    | 9    | 15   | 8    | 5    | 10   | 23   |
|        |     | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 |
| Cases  | ... | 40   | 45   | 43   | 42   | 38   | 65   | 25   |
| Deaths | ... | 22   | 17   | 22   | 19   | 11   | 24   | 26   |
|        |     | 1949 | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | 1955 |
| Cases  | ... | 46   | 42   | 30   | 53   | 68   | 57   | 73   |
| Deaths | ... | 18   | 6    | 12   | 4    | 4    | 6    | 6    |

B.C.G. Vaccine was administered to 60 persons of whom 4 were adults and 56 children. The latter were all child contacts who were found after skin sensitivity tests to have little or no natural immunity to the disease.

59 cases of Tuberculosis were admitted for treatment at a Sanatorium and 44 were discharged.

The Miniature Mass Radiography Unit paid a further visit to the town, taking in both industrial and public sessions. The response of the public was again disappointingly small. The Unit is better patronized by the younger age groups, a fact which perhaps shows that health education is bearing some fruit. Unfortunately it does not reach very many of the older men among whom an increasing fraction of the total number of cases is being found. One may surmise that many more infective cases would be brought to light annually if more men over fifty showed some of the wisdom traditionally ascribed to the elders and became less indifferent or resistant to the idea of periodic health check-ups, including the Chest X-ray.

*Tuberculosis.*—The total of notifications was one of the highest recorded but this was fortunately accompanied by a low mortality. The total of 73 includes no fewer than 28 transfers. Over a five year period the incidence of and mortality from Pulmonary Tuberculosis is very little above the average for the whole county.

## MASS RADIOGRAPHY

\*Coventry Mass Radiography Unit of Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

Medical Director     ...     ...     ...     Dr. A. Gordon Evans

*Date of visiting Borough :*     June, 1955.

*Place :*     Hamilton House, Holly Walk.

|   | <i>Male</i> | <i>Female</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|---|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. Miniature X-Ray Examinations                                   | 326         | 595           | 921          |
| 2. Recalled for Large Film Examinations ...     ...     ...       | 15          | 40            | 55           |
| 3. Recalled for Clinical Examinations ...     ...     ...     ... | 10          | 19            | 29           |

### Analysis of Clinical Examinations

|   |  |  |  |    |    |    |  |
|---|--|--|--|----|----|----|--|
| 1. <i>Referred to Chest Clinic for Further Investigation.</i> |  |  |  |    |    |    |  |
| (a)   | Suspected Tuberculosis ...                               |  |  | 4  | 10 | 14 |  |
| (b)   | Other Chest Abnormalities ... ..                         |  |  | 2  | 3  | 5  |  |
| 2. <i>Referred to Own Doctor.</i>                             |  |  |  |    |    |    |  |
| (a)   | Inactive Tuberculosis                                    |  |  | —  | —  | —  |  |
| (b)   | Other Chest Abnormalities ... ..                         |  |  | 2  | 2  | 4  |  |
| 3. <i>No Further Action Considered Necessary.</i>             |  |  |  |    |    |    |  |
| (a)   | Inactive Tuberculosis                                    |  |  | 1  | 2  | 3  |  |
| (b)   | Other Chest Abnormalities ... ..                         |  |  | 1  | 1  | 2  |  |
| (c)   | Abnormality not confirmed by Clinical Examination ... .. |  |  | —  | 1  | 1  |  |
| Total ...   |  |  |  | 10 | 19 | 29 |  |

For 1955 and subsequent years the Registrar General is issuing Mass Radiography Statistics in a new way. This system will show all residents in your district who have undergone miniature chest X-ray examination irrespective of the place of survey and the figures will be based on scrutiny of 10% samples of all record cards received for the year. The 1955 figures given for this borough are as follows :—

|                      |  | <i>Under</i>    |       |       |       |       |       |     |              |
|----------------------|--|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|--------------|
| <i>Ages</i>          |  | <i>14 years</i> | 15-24 | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65+ | <i>Total</i> |
| Numbers examined ... |  | 100             | 320   | 320   | 280   | 100   | 80    | 10  | 1210         |

These examinations led to the notification of 2 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis. In relation to other large towns in Warwickshire, the Leamington total makes a very poor showing. As the town enjoys a notification and death rate a little over the county average, there is need for the public to show much greater interest in the chance of a free chest X-ray examination annually. Particularly is this so among the older men who, although they have a higher tuberculosis rate than normal, virtually ignore the X-ray service. Undoubtedly the carelessness of such people, who are old enough to know better, endangers the health of many children and young persons every year in a quite unnecessary way.



## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Where elderly, sick or infirm persons are found to be living in neglected and insanitary conditions and are not obtaining proper care or attention the Council has authorized the Medical Officer of Health to take action in its behalf under Section 47 of the above act by application before a magistrate or a court of summary jurisdiction for the removal of the said person to a hospital or institution.

From time to time the Council is called upon to arrange for the burial of the dead and this action, under the powers of Section 50 has been entrusted to the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Details follow of 14 persons reported during 1955 as allegedly without proper care and attention.

*Case 1. Mrs. R. B—.* This woman lived in a caravan moving with a travelling fair which was to spend a fortnight in this area. The woman, having had a stroke, was bedfast and had become a burden to her relatives. Admission to a chronic hospital ward was sought but proved impossible to arrange and the matter was referred back to the base area of the fair.

*Case 2. Mrs. B—.* An old lady living alone and neglected in a slum house. Her only relative was an elderly and neurotic sister. Removal to hospital was arranged so that extensive leg ulcers might be treated. On her discharge a Home Help was provided but her services were not accepted.

*Case 3. Miss E—.* A senile invalid with partial incontinence. Long term case for district nursing and home help to alleviate dirty conditions in the home until the death of the patient.

*Case 4. Mr. E. A. H—.* Aged 84. Living alone in horrible conditions, was found collapsed in street but refused to enter any institution. The aid of the Area Welfare Officer was sought.

*Case 5. Mr. H—.* This case was reputed in error as only simple nursing after-care was needed.

*Case 6. Miss J—.* This appeared upon enquiry to be a case where a report to the duly authorized officer was the only possible course.

*Case 7. Mr. J. J—.* An aged senile dement with hallucinations and delusions living in a sordid "problem family" environment. Soon after my visit he was certified as of unsound mind and taken to hospital.

*Case 8. Mrs. A. J— (92).* Infirm and totally deaf. Confined to bed downstairs in small unfit cottage. Arrangements made for removal to chronic ward and for house to be condemned as unfit.

*Case 9. Mr. L—.* A "difficult" man. Widower and said to be paralysed by Disseminated Sclerosis. Was removed after some pressure to hospital but later discharged himself. Is a burden to relatives as nobody will share the house.

*Case 10. Mrs. L— (74).* Blind. Health Visitor's care arranged as the home was not well kept.

*Case 11. Mr. M—.* A middle-aged man permanently paralysed as the result of a stroke and bedfast. Moved into this area from Scotland. Wife obliged to work and support the home. Owing to serious nursing problems, admission to hospital was expedited.

*Case 12. Mr. A. M—.* (77). Former hotel handyman was reported by ex-employer as ill and living alone in squalid conditions. He refused to see a doctor until over persuaded. Owing to his age and heart disease, his admission to Part III accommodation was arranged urgently but the man disappeared on the due day for admission. Four weeks later his dead body was recovered from the Canal at Myton. The Coroner found that death was due to drowning.

*Case 13. Mr. O—.* Old widower, living in basement and ground floor of large house, became ill and unable to swallow. He was found to be almost unattended and in very insanitary conditions. He refused to make any move until informed that an application would be made to a magistrate whereupon he agreed to enter hospital. His admission was after some trouble arranged.

*Case 14. Mrs. R—.* Elderly lady seriously ill and attended by aged husband unable to take the full strain. District nursing, home help and "night sitter" services were offered. The patient died after ten days illness.

## **MORTUARY**

Additional equipment has been purchased for the borough mortuary and the Council has endeavoured to improve the storage and post-mortem facilities. 97 bodies were received during the year and 89 of these were subjected to post-mortem examination. P.C. Robinson, who had been permitted by the Chief Constable to act as mortuary attendant, retired from the police force at the end of 1955. It then became necessary for the Council to appoint a part-time attendant and, after much difficulty in finding a suitable person, an appointment was made as from January, 1956.

## **FOOD AND DRUGS**

Only 6 samples of ice-cream were taken and no sample fell into grades 3 or 4. Milk samples showed that pasteurization had been adequate and this year both Tuberculin Tested and ordinary pasteurized milk satisfied the methylene blue test except on such occasions as the tests became void of meaning due to excessive atmospheric temperature.

## **FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.**

### **SECTION 8**

Tuberculous Milk Investigations—Routine Milk  
Samples for Biological Examination during  
the Year 1955.

| <i>Designation of Milk</i>                 | <i>Total<br/>No. of<br/>Samples</i> | <i>No.<br/>Positive</i> |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| PASTEURISED ... ..                         | 2                                   | Nil                     |
| " TUBERCULIN TESTED<br>(PASTEURISED) " ... | 1                                   | Nil                     |
| " TUBERCULIN TESTED " ...                  | Nil                                 | Nil                     |
| NON-DESIGNATED ... ..                      | 1                                   | Nil                     |

### HOUSING, 1955

Number of houses built in the town during 1955 :—

(a) By the Local Authority ... 285

(b) By Private Enterprise ... .. 250

The number of houses owned by the Corporation is 2,474

The number of Prefabricated Bungalows is ... .. 113



# REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

## for the year ending December 31st, 1955.

### ADMINISTRATION

In spite of further staff changes during the year under review, including the loss of the pupil sanitary inspector who found a more remunerative post in industry, there was no slowing down of the work of slum clearance. There was, however, a curtailment of routine inspection work of other kinds.

The 755 complaints which were received were chiefly related to unsatisfactory housing conditions and nuisances ; to rat and mouse infestations and to defective or obstructed drains.

#### Summary of complaints received

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Housing complaints ... ..                   | 207 |
| Nuisances from smoke, etc. ... ..           | 13  |
| Nuisances from animals ... ..               | 2   |
| Offensive accumulations ... ..              | 20  |
| Rats and Mice ... ..                        | 192 |
| Other vermin ... ..                         | 93  |
| State of Food Premises and unsound food ... | 94  |
| Obstructed or defective drains ... ..       | 99  |
| Defective Dustbins ... ..                   | 5   |
| Miscellaneous ... ..                        | 30  |

**Notices.**—Fewer notices were sent out, 206 as compared with 379 in 1954. 38 of these were formal, an increase of 6 over the previous year.

Talks were again given by the Chief Sanitary Inspector to various organisations and schools in the town on the work of the department and these are regarded as being a valuable contribution to health education generally.

With the adoption of a comprehensive slum clearance programme for the next ten years and the opportunity thus presented for the redevelopment of certain areas in the borough, the Chief Sanitary Inspector finds it both necessary and desirable to attend meetings of the Housing and Development Committees and some of their sub-committees, in addition to the Health Committee meetings, where a “ watching brief ” can be held as regards certain aspects of housing, clean air, and hygiene in municipally owned shops and other food premises.

## Summary of visits and inspections and work done during the year.

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Visits in relation to notifiable infectious diseases ...                       | 69    |
| Rooms disinfected ... ..   | 34    |
| Steam disinfections ... ..   | 50    |
| Books disinfected ... ..   | 302   |
| Bundles of clothing disinfected ... ..   | 20    |
| Rooms disinfested ... ..   | 132   |
| Persons cleansed ... ..  | 4     |
| Inspections of food shops and premises ... ..                                  | 433   |
| factories ... ..   | 35    |
| dairies ... ..   | 21    |
| Housing Inspections, re-inspections and inspections of work in progress ... .. | 1,642 |
| Drainage inspections ... ..  | 301   |
| Housing allocation enquiries ... ..  | 248   |
| Drains tested by smoke ... ..  | 20    |
| chemically ... ..  | 4     |
| New dustbins provided ... ..   | 12    |
| Offensive accumulations removed ... ..   | 16    |
| Nuisances from animals abated ... ..   | 5     |
| Smoke observations made ... ..   | 31    |
| Rodent Control visits ... ..   | 211   |
| Merchandise Marks Act visits ... ..  | 76    |
| National Assistance Act visits ... ..  | 61    |
| Pets Act visits ... ..   | 15    |
| Miscellaneous visits ... ..  | 349   |
| Samples of food and drugs taken for analysis ...                               | 145   |
| Other samples taken for bacteriological examination :—                         |       |
| Ice Cream ... ..   | 6     |
| Milk (Special Designations) ... ..   | 69    |
| Water—Swimming Bath ... ..   | 4     |
| Therapeutic Pool ... ..  | 4     |
| Other ... ..   | 2     |

## HOUSING

The actual number of inspections of dwelling houses was slightly less than in 1954, due to staffing difficulties, but nevertheless a start was made on the detailed inspection of the houses proposed to be included in the Rugby Road clearance area. Many more inspections and visits were made for the purpose of preparing the formal proposals for slum clearance asked for by the Minister of Housing and Local Government, a copy of which is reproduced on page 20.

This shows that out of a total of 11,151 dwellings in the borough nearly 900 are regarded as being unfit within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and of these about half will be dealt with in the first five years. These proposals were formally adopted by the Council and subsequently accepted by the Minister.

**Public Enquiry.**—The Public Enquiry into the John Street Clearance Area was held by the Minister in September and this was confirmed in the following November with only minor modifications.

**Appeal.**—The owner of a house in Rugby Road unsuccessfully appealed to the County Court against a Closing Order made thereon under Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.

**Certificates of Disrepair.**—The number of applications for such certificates under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, was only 11. 10 of these were granted and there were 4 revocations of previously granted certificates.

## HOUSING STATISTICS, 1955

### I. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year

|       |   |     |
|-------|---|-----|
| 1 (a) | Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)   | 315 |
| (b)   | Number of inspections made for the purpose  | 422 |
| 2 (a) | Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925              | 56  |
| (b)   | Number of inspections made for the purpose  | 68  |
| 3     | Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation                                    | 119 |
| 4     | Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 179 |

### II. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers | 193 |
|---|-----|



### III. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year

#### *A. Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... .. | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—       |     |
| (a) by owners ... ..   | Nil |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...  | Nil |

#### *B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... .. | 179 |
| (2) Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—                        |     |
| (a) by owners ... ..  | 37  |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners   | Nil |

#### *C. Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

|  |    |
|--|----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... .. | 16 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..    | 9  |

#### *D. Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

|  |    |
|--|----|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..  | 19 |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... .. | 1  |

#### **Action taken under the Housing Acts since 1925.**

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Houses demolished ... ..  | 196 |
| Houses and parts of buildings closed ... ..   | 46  |
| Undertakings given in lieu of demolition orders and closing orders on dwelling houses ... | 12  |
| Demolition orders made but houses not yet demolished ... ..                               | 19  |
| Basement dwellings closed ... ..  | 104 |
| Undertakings given in lieu of closing orders on parts of buildings ... ..                 | 14  |
| Houses reconditioned ... ..   | 22  |

**HOUSING ACT, 1936 : PARTS II AND III**  
**HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954 :**  
**SECTION I**

**REQUIRED FORM OF PROPOSALS**

Local Authority : Borough of Royal Leamington Spa.

County : Warwickshire.

Total number of permanent dwellings in the local authority's  
area : 11,151.

**Part One—The Total Problem**

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| (i) Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and suitable for action under Sections 11 or 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 | 876 |
| (ii) Period years which the Council think necessary for securing the demolition of all the houses in (i)   | 10  |

**Part Two—Orders Already Made, Etc.**

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| (iii) Number of houses in (i) in clearance areas and already covered by operative clearance or compulsory purchase orders or owned by the local authority                              | Nil |
| (iv) Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders have been submitted to the Minister but have not yet become operative | 39  |

**Part Three—Action in the First Five Years**

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| (v) Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders are to be made or which are to be purchased by agreement within the five years   | 39  |
| (vi) Number of houses which are to be included in clearance areas still to be declared and which within the five years will be owned by the local authority or will have been included in a clearance order or compulsory purchase order submitted to the Minister | 460 |
| (vii) Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be patched (if necessary) and retained within the five years under section 2 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, for temporary accommodation   | Nil |
| (viii) Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be demolished in the five years   | 499 |

- (ix) Number of houses (including those already comprised in operative demolition orders) to be demolished in the five as a result of action under section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... .. 21

**CARAVANS**

There are no licensed caravan sites within the borough boundary.

**FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938**

145 samples of food and drugs were submitted to the Public Analyst during the year who certified 141 to be genuine and 4 not genuine.

Sampling of the raw milk coming into the town continues to be done by the County Sampling Officer before delivery to the pasteurising plant.

Particulars of food and drug samples, only two of which, one milk and one ice-cream, were formal.

|                     |     |     |     |     |     |     |   |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Aspirin             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Biscuits            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Butter              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Buttered scones     |     | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Cinnamon            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Cocoa               | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Coffee              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Cake mixture        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Custard powder      |     | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Cakes and Pastries  |     | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Crab meat           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Cream               | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Dripping            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Dried peas          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Fish paste          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Fish cakes          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Gee's Linctus       | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Gelatine            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| * Ham cheese spread | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| * Ice cream         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Jam                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Meat paste          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Meat pie            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Minced beef         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| * Milk              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |



|                       |     |     |     |     |     |    |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Margarine             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| Mustard               | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Pickles and sauces    | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9  |
| Pearl barley          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2  |
| Raising powder        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8  |
| Stuffing              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Sugar                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Sanatogen             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Sausages              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6  |
| Soup                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2  |
| S.R. Flour            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3  |
| Saccharin             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Soft drinks           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3  |
| Sweets                | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5  |
| Tinned fruit          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Tinned cream          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7  |
| Tapioca               | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| * Tincture of quinine | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2  |
| Table jelly           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Tea                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Throat lozenges       | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Vanilla essence       | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Vinegar               | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4  |

---

145

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\* The unsatisfactory samples were: Milk, 1 ; ice-cream, 1 ; ham and cheese spread, 1 ; and tincture of quinine, 1. " Follow-up " samples of the milk and ice-cream were genuine. In the case of the ham and cheese spread (there being only 2% of ham in the sample) no further samples could be obtained as the product appeared to have been withdrawn from sale. The remaining stock of tincture of quinine was also withdrawn from sale.

## UN SOUND FOOD

Quantities and description of food found to be unsound and surrendered for destruction as being unfit for human consumption.

Beef : 253lbs.

Pork :  $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.

Lamb : 34lbs.

Ox liver : 6lbs.

Sausage : 20lbs.

Brawn : 39lbs.  
 Kidneys : 109lbs.  
 Corned Beef : 42lbs.  
 Ox tongue : 6lbs.  
 Jellyed veal : 18lbs.  
 Cooked ham : 124lbs.  
 Fish : 98lbs.  
 Prawns : 31lbs.  
 Cheese : 534lbs.  
 Eggs : 35.  
 Chicken : 27lbs.  
 Butter : 9lbs.  
 Margarine :  $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.  
 Pastries : 7lbs.  
 Sweets : 106lbs.  
 Bananas : 31 cwts.  
 Marzipan : 20lbs.  
 Miscellaneous tinned foodstuffs : 1644.  
 Miscellaneous jars and packets of foodstuffs : 341

Reasons for condemnation were in the case of canned foods, blown, holed or rusted cans ; in the case of bottled foods, broken glass or defective caps ; in other cases the causes were contamination or decomposition.

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are no slaughterhouses in the borough. Most butchers use the facilities provided at either Coventry, Birmingham, Stratford-on-Avon or Kenilworth.

Unsound or diseased meat however, exposed for sale in butchers' shops and elsewhere remains subject to inspection and seizure by the Sanitary Inspectors.

## MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1949-53.

Licences issued during the year under the above Regulations :

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Dealers (Pasteurisers) Licence.....                     | 1  |
| Supplementary Licences for Pasteurised Milk .....       | 9  |
| Supplementary Licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk ..... | 7  |
| Dealers Licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk .....       | 24 |
| Dealers Licences for Pasteurised Milk .....             | 23 |
| Dealers Licence for Sterilised Milk .....               | 2  |

Samples of milk were taken regularly for bacteriological examination and the results are set out below :

| Designation                     | No. | Nature of Tests | Passed | Failed |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----------------|--------|--------|
| Pasteurised                     | 34  | Phosphatase     | 34     | —      |
|                                 |     | Methylene Blue  | 21     | (13*)  |
| Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) | 28  | Phosphatase     | 28     | —      |
|                                 |     | Methylene Blue  | 21     | (7*)   |
| Tuberculin Tested               | 7   | Methylene Blue  | 6      | 1      |

\* Tests void on account of high temperature.

Results of the bacteriological examination of samples of ICE CREAM :

|         |   |     |                   |
|---------|---|-----|-------------------|
| Grade 1 | 3 | 50% | } Satisfactory.   |
| Grade 2 | 3 | 50% |                   |
| Grade 3 | 0 |     | } Unsatisfactory. |
| Grade 4 | 0 |     |                   |

### CANAL BOATS

There are no boats on the Register and none were inspected during the year.

### FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Enforcement of the provisions of these Acts rests with two bodies, the Ministry of Labour and National Service and the Local Authority, there being well-defined duties shared by H.M. Inspectors of Factories and by Sanitary Inspectors.

For the purposes of the Acts factories are classified as :

- (a) where mechanical power is used, and
- (b) where mechanical power is not used.

Local Authorities are responsible for enforcing the provisions relating to sanitary accommodation in both (a) and (b) but other matters relating to health are only enforced by them in (b), such as cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation and drainage in addition to sanitary accommodation.

The following tables detail the work done by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year :



|                            | <i>Number on<br/>Register</i> | <i>Number of<br/>Inspections</i> |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Factories, Class (a) ..... | 217                           | 16                               |
| Factories, Class (b) ..... | 213                           | 27                               |
| Other premises .....       | 15                            | 4                                |
| Totals .....               | 445                           | 47                               |

Number of cases in which defects were found : 2.

Details as under :—

|   | <i>Found</i> | <i>Remedied</i> |
|---|--------------|-----------------|
| Unreasonable temperature ... ..         | 1            | 1               |
| Insufficient sanitary accommodation ... | 1            | 1               |
| TOTAL ...                               | 2            | 2               |

### **PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951**

This act came into force in 1952, and is designed to regulate the sale of pet animals.

Local authorities have power to grant licences to persons to keep pet shops which they approve and these licences specify the conditions which must be observed.

There were three licences issued during the year and 15 inspections were made of the premises.

### **RODENT CONTROL**

#### **Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1951**

1772 inspections of properties were made during the year. The number of infestations treated were as under :

|                               |     |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Private dwellings ... ..      | 150 |
| Corporation properties ... .. | 30  |

The sewers were treated once during the year.

It is not generally realised that the responsibility for destroying rats and mice rests on owners and occupiers of land. The occupier is required to give notice in writing to the local authority when it comes to his notice that rats or mice are living on or resorting to his land in substantial numbers. The local authority may call upon owners or occupiers to take reasonable steps to destroy rats or mice and to keep their premises free from them.

The department undertakes to destroy rats and mice on private property as a free service, and on business premises at a reasonable charge, but this service does not relieve owners or occupiers of their primary responsibility in the matter.

Seven notices were served during the year.

### **RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951**

This Act is designed to secure the use of clean filling materials in the upholstery and allied trades, and regulations have been made prescribing the standards of cleanliness to which these materials must conform.

No premises were registered or licensed in the borough during the year.

### **MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT, 1926**

Regulations made under this Act require shopkeepers to mark certain imported goods or produce with an indication of origin. The manner in which this is to be done is laid down in the regulations.

During the year 76 visits were made to shops, and once again several shopkeepers were cautioned for failing to mark imported tomatoes with a proper indication of origin. Shopkeepers have regularly to be reminded that for the purpose of these regulations the Channel Islands are not regarded as being part of Great Britain, and consequently tomatoes from these islands must be marked with an indication of origin.

### **NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948**

The department is concerned with two sections of this Act, one whereby persons in need of care and attention can be removed to suitable accommodation and the other, which lays on the local authority the duty of causing to be buried or cremated the body of any person who has died or been found dead in their area, in any case where no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body have been made otherwise than by the authority. One person (female) was buried in such circumstances during the year.

### **SHOPS ACT, 1950**

#### **Report of the Shops Act Inspector**

Certain provisions of the Shops Act relating to ventilation, temperature, sanitary accommodation and washing facilities are dealt with by the Sanitary Inspectors as part of

their public health duties but the provisions of the Act dealing with Closing Hours, Sunday Trading etc., are the concern of the Shops Act Inspector who has been specially appointed for the purpose.

Frequent tours of the town were made during the year in order to ascertain whether the requirements of the Shops Acts and the regulations made thereunder were being observed. A summary of these observations follows :—

|                   |     |     |     |    |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Sunday Trading    | ... | ... | ... | 26 |
| Half-day Closing  | ... | ... | ... | 36 |
| Evening Hours ... | ... | ... | ... | 41 |

The undermentioned contraventions were found and dealt with either verbally or by letter :—

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Failing to exhibit the required notices | 6     |
| Sale of non-exempted articles           | ... 2 |

In addition many enquiries were dealt with relating to hours of closing at holiday times, change of half-day closing, exhibitions, and mobile vehicles.



METEOROLOGICAL REPORT, 1955

The taking and recording of Meteorological observations have continued throughout the year, the Observer being Mr. A. H. Stalworth who has compiled the following statistics.

TABLE OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS, LEAMINGTON SPA, 1955.  
Latitude 52° 18' N. Longitude 1° 30' W.

| Month        | Means of Barom. 9 a.m. | AIR TEMPERATURES |      |      |                       |                   |      |               |           |        |      | EARTH TEMPS. |      | Direc. of the prevailing Wind | Rainfall |  |
|--------------|------------------------|------------------|------|------|-----------------------|-------------------|------|---------------|-----------|--------|------|--------------|------|-------------------------------|----------|--|
|              |                        | Means            |      |      | Absolute Temperatures |                   |      | At 1 foot     | At 4 feet | Inches | Days |              |      |                               |          |  |
|              |                        | 9 a.m.           | Max. |      | Min.                  | Max.              | Date |               |           |        |      | Min.         | Date |                               |          |  |
|              |                        |                  |      |      |                       |                   |      |               |           |        |      |              |      |                               |          |  |
| January ...  | 29.93                  | 36.3             | 41.3 | 32.3 | 55                    | on 30th           | 16   | on 20th       | 37.9      | 49.5   | N.E. | 2.04         | 14   |                               |          |  |
| February ... | 29.72                  | 35.1             | 40.2 | 29.7 | 55                    | „ 7th             | 16   | „ 28th        | 37.5      | 46.9   | N.W. | 1.43         | 17   |                               |          |  |
| March ...    | 30.10                  | 38.3             | 45.2 | 31.7 | 54                    | „ 26th            | 23   | „ 20th & 22nd | 37.6      | 45.3   | N.E. | 2.27         | 10   |                               |          |  |
| April ...    | 30.23                  | 50.4             | 57.9 | 41.8 | 66                    | „ 20th            | 33   | „ 25th        | 49.1      | 47.4   | S.W. | 0.99         | 9    |                               |          |  |
| May ...      | 29.90                  | 51.1             | 57.8 | 42.2 | 68                    | „ 30th            | 34   | „ 18th        | 52.8      | 50.1   | S.W. | 4.32         | 20   |                               |          |  |
| June ...     | 29.98                  | 58.4             | 65.6 | 49.9 | 74                    | „ 6th             | 39   | „ 10th        | 61.4      | 53.3   | S.W. | 2.66         | 13   |                               |          |  |
| July ...     | 30.15                  | 64.8             | 74.9 | 54.6 | 85                    | „ 17th            | 46   | „ 2nd         | 65.6      | 56.4   | N.E. | 0.15         | 2    |                               |          |  |
| August ...   | 30.12                  | 64.4             | 71.7 | 56.1 | 84                    | „ 22nd & 23rd     | 43   | „ 8th         | 67.0      | 58.7   | N.E. | 0.27         | 7    |                               |          |  |
| September    | 30.00                  | 58.7             | 67.0 | 49.7 | 75                    | „ 2nd & 7th       | 40   | „ 19th        | 59.8      | 59.1   | S.W. | 1.35         | 10   |                               |          |  |
| October ...  | 29.97                  | 49.1             | 56.8 | 41.8 | 69                    | „ 8th, 9th & 10th | 22   | „ 31st        | 50.6      | 56.8   | N.W. | 1.29         | 10   |                               |          |  |
| November...  | 30.12                  | 44.6             | 50.0 | 39.3 | 62                    | „ 4th             | 24   | „ 1st         | 45.0      | 53.6   | S.W. | 1.33         | 9    |                               |          |  |
| December ... | 29.78                  | 42.3             | 48.4 | 36.3 | 57                    | „ 7th & 28th      | 21   | „ 19th        | 41.3      | 51.1   | S.W. | 1.77         | 20   |                               |          |  |
| Totals ...   | ...                    | ...              | ...  | ...  | ...                   | ...               | ...  | ...           | ...       | ...    | ...  | 19.87        | 141  |                               |          |  |
| Means ...    | 30.00                  | 49.5             | 56.4 | 42.1 |                       | ...               |      | ...           | 50.5      | 52.4   | ...  | ...          | ...  |                               |          |  |

METEOROLOGICAL AVERAGES OF  
LEAMINGTON SPA.

| For the 75 Years, 1881-1955 |                              |                  |      |           |       | For the 39<br>years, 1912<br>to 1950. |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|------|-----------|-------|---------------------------------------|
| Month.                      | Means<br>of Barom.<br>9 a.m. | Air Temperature. |      | Rainfall. |       | Sunshine                              |
|                             |                              | Max.             | Min. | Inches.   | Days. | Hours.                                |
| January ...                 | 29.93                        | 44.4             | 34.2 | 2.10      | 16    | 41.4                                  |
| February                    | 29.95                        | 45.0             | 34.3 | 1.71      | 13    | 59.8                                  |
| March ...                   | 29.96                        | 50.0             | 36.0 | 1.58      | 13    | 101.4                                 |
| April ...                   | 29.94                        | 54.6             | 39.1 | 1.73      | 14    | 134.5                                 |
| May ...                     | 29.96                        | 62.6             | 44.7 | 2.04      | 13    | 179.5                                 |
| June ...                    | 30.03                        | 67.7             | 49.7 | 1.83      | 12    | 189.7                                 |
| July ...                    | 29.95                        | 70.3             | 53.6 | 2.43      | 13    | 168.7                                 |
| August ...                  | 29.86                        | 69.7             | 53.0 | 2.44      | 14    | 163.2                                 |
| September                   | 29.98                        | 64.8             | 48.9 | 2.17      | 12    | 122.7                                 |
| October ...                 | 29.96                        | 57.5             | 42.7 | 2.44      | 15    | 92.8                                  |
| November                    | 29.90                        | 49.0             | 37.7 | 2.34      | 15    | 51.5                                  |
| December                    | 29.92                        | 45.9             | 36.1 | 2.11      | 16    | 35.9                                  |
| Means and<br>Totals ...     | 29.95                        | 56.8             | 42.5 | 24.92     | 166   | 1341.1                                |

TABLE II.

## BOROUGH OF ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA.

## VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1955 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

| YEAR. | Population estimated to Middle of each Year. | BIRTHS. |             | NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT. |                             |              |       |
|-------|--|---------|-------------|--|-----------------------------|--------------|-------|
|       |  | Nett.   |             | Under 1 Year of age.                   |                             | At all Ages. |       |
|       |  | Number. | Crude Rate. | Number.                                | Rate per 1,000 Nett Births. | Number.      | Rate. |
| 1     | 2  | 3       | 4           | 5                                      | 6                           | 7            | 8     |
| 1948  | 36,210                                       | 661     | 13.3        | 19                                     | 29                          | 461          | 12.7  |
| 1949  | 36,020                                       | 648     | 18.0        | 24                                     | 37                          | 488          | 13.5  |
| 1950  | 36,370                                       | 581     | 16.0        | 17                                     | 29.3                        | 463          | 12.7  |
| 1951  | 36,520                                       | 571     | 15.7        | 14                                     | 24.5                        | 507          | 13.9  |
| 1952  | 36,730                                       | 601     | 16.4        | 13                                     | 21.6                        | 461          | 12.5  |
| 1953  | 37,390                                       | 684     | 18.3        | 17                                     | 24.9                        | 432          | 11.6  |
| 1954  | 37,800                                       | 640     | 16.2        | 16                                     | 25                          | 455          | 12.0  |
| 1955  | 37,950                                       | 697     | 18.4        | 19                                     | 27.2                        | 459          | 12.1  |

## VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1955.

## ENGLAND AND WALES.

*Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1955.*

*(Provisional Figures).*

## Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.

|                   |     | Live Births. | Still Births per 1,000 Births. | Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births. |
|-------------------|-----|--------------|--------------------------------|--|
| England and Wales | ... | 15.0         | 23.1                           | 11.7 24.9                              |



TABLE III.

## BOROUGH OF ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR  
1955.

| NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.   | Number of Cases notified. |                |         |          |           |           |           |                    | Total cases removed<br>to Hospital. |
|---|---------------------------|----------------|---------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
|   | At all Ages.              | At Ages—Years. |         |          |           |           |           |                    |                                     |
|   |                           | Under 1.       | 1 to 5. | 5 to 15. | 15 to 25. | 25 to 45. | 45 to 65. | 65 and<br>upwards. |                                     |
| Small-pox ... ..  |                           |                |         |          |           |           |           |                    |                                     |
| Plague ... ..   |                           |                |         |          |           |           |           |                    |                                     |
| Diphtheria (including Mem-<br>branous Group) ... ..         |                           |                |         |          |           |           |           |                    |                                     |
| Erysipelas ... ..   | 4                         |                |         |          |           | 1         | 2         | 1                  |                                     |
| Scarlet Fever ... ..  | 36                        |                | 19      | 14       | 2         | 1         |           |                    |                                     |
| Paratyphoid Fever ... ..                                    | 1                         |                |         | 1        |           |           |           |                    | 1                                   |
| Enteric Fever ... ..  |                           |                |         |          |           |           |           |                    |                                     |
| Pneumonia ... ..  | 36                        | 1              | 5       | 7        | 3         | 7         | 8         | 5                  | 3                                   |
| Malaria ... ..  |                           |                |         |          |           |           |           |                    |                                     |
| Dysentery ... ..  | 3                         |                |         | 1        | 1         | 1         |           |                    |                                     |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..                                    | 38                        |                |         |          | 16        | 22        |           |                    | 38                                  |
| Meningococcal Infection ... ..                              |                           |                |         |          |           |           |           |                    |                                     |
| Acute Poliomyelitis (including<br>Polioencephalitis) ... .. | 5                         | 1              | 1       | 2        | 1         |           |           |                    | 5                                   |
| Whooping Cough ... ..                                       | 102                       | 14             | 38      | 48       | 2         |           |           |                    |                                     |
| Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..                              |                           |                |         |          |           |           |           |                    |                                     |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..                                |                           |                |         |          |           |           |           |                    |                                     |
| Measles ... ..  | 411                       | 5              | 175     | 227      | 4         |           |           |                    |                                     |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..                               | 40                        | 4              | 1       | 10       | 14        | 9         | 2         |                    |                                     |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis ... ..                          | 5                         |                |         | 2        |           | 3         |           |                    |                                     |
| Food Poisoning ... ..                                       | 6                         | 1              | 2       |          |           | 3         |           |                    |                                     |
| Totals ... ..   | 687                       | 26             | 241     | 312      | 43        | 47        | 12        | 6                  | 47                                  |

TABLE IV.  
BOROUGH OF ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA.  
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1955.

| CAUSES OF DEATH  | MALES | FEMALES |
|--|-------|---------|
| 1 Tuberculosis respiratory ... ..                      | 3     | 1       |
| 2 Tuberculosis other ... ..                            | 2     | 1       |
| 3 Syphilitic disease ... ..                            | 2     | —       |
| 4 Diphtheria ... ..                                    | —     | —       |
| 5 Whooping cough ... ..                                | 1     | —       |
| 6 Meningococcal infections ... ..                      | 1     | —       |
| 7 Acute poliomyelitis ... ..                           | —     | —       |
| 8 Measles ... ..                                       | —     | —       |
| 9 Other infective and parasitic diseases ...           | —     | 1       |
| 10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach ... ..                  | 7     | 2       |
| 11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...              | 16    | 1       |
| 12 Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..                   | —     | 10      |
| 13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..                   | —     | 1       |
| 14 Other malignant and lymphatic neo-<br>plasms ... .. | 28    | 23      |
| 15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..                        | 5     | —       |
| 16 Diabetes ... ..                                     | —     | 4       |
| 17 Vascular lesions of nervous system ...              | 19    | 47      |
| 18 Coronary disease, angina ... ..                     | 43    | 28      |
| 19 Hypertension with heart disease ...                 | 5     | 5       |
| 20 Other heart disease ... ..                          | 33    | 49      |
| 21 Other circulatory disease ... ..                    | 1     | 8       |
| 22 Influenza ... ..                                    | 3     | —       |
| 23 Pneumonia ... ..                                    | 6     | 9       |
| 24 Bronchitis ... ..                                   | 8     | 4       |
| 25 Other disease of respiratory system ...             | 6     | 1       |
| 26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...                   | 2     | —       |
| 27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...              | 2     | —       |
| 28 Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..                      | 2     | 1       |
| 29 Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..                      | 4     | —       |
| 30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ... ..              | —     | —       |
| 31 Congenital malformations ... ..                     | 4     | 2       |
| 32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...          | 18    | 21      |
| 33 Motor vehicle accidents ... ..                      | 4     | 2       |
| 34 All other accidents ... ..                          | 3     | 5       |
| 35 Suicide ... ..                                      | 4     | 1       |
| 36 Homicide and operations of war ...                  | —     | —       |
| All Causes ... ..                                      | 232   | 227     |





